

BOOK REVIEWS

FLORA OF LESOTHO, by A. Jacot Guillarmod, with 474 pages and map of Lesotho on inside cover. Lehre, Germany: J. Cramer. DM150 (R30,85).

Before the publication of the work presently under review, the only treatment of Lesotho plants was E. P. Phillips' "A Contribution to the Flora of the Leribe Plateau and Environs", published in the *Annals of the South African Museum* in 1917. However, his 338 page taxonomic treatment, incorporating descriptions of some new species, included not only the Lesotho collection of Dieterlen and others, but also those from the bordering mountainous areas in Natal, the Orange Free State and the eastern Cape Province.

Since then, Dr. Amy Jacot Guillarmod has collected extensively in Lesotho and has searched European herbaria for specimens collected in that country. The results of her praiseworthy activity both in the field and in herbaria are embodied in the major part of the publication under review. This constitutes a valuable source of information, especially in regard to the location of specimens, but the frequent reference of specimens to an unidentified specific category underlines how much critical taxonomic work on the Lesotho flora still remains to be done.

In addition to interesting sections on Lesotho history, descriptive ecology, land tenure and usage, biographical notes on collectors of Lesotho plants, indices to Lesotho vernacular names and local uses, there is a valuable index of Lesotho place names giving map references. However, despite the wealth of information to be gleaned from this work, the title given to this book, at least to a taxonomist, is rather a misnomer.

E. A. SCHELPE.

TREES OF THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, VOL. 2, by P. van Wyk, with pp vi+285—597, 104 full page colour plates. Cape Town: Purnell and Sons, 1974. R17,50.

The second and final volume of Mr. P. van Wyk's *Trees of the Kruger National Park* has now appeared, covering the families Euphorbiaceae to Compositae in the Engler system. It follows the same format and style as the previous volume and one cannot but express satisfaction that the high standards of colour reproduction that characterised the plates in volume I, continue to be maintained. To photograph a mature tree in the lowveld environment, showing its characteristic adult growth form, without being obscured by the associated vegetation, and to present it as a glamorous illustration, requires a skilful balancing of priorities, not to mention the arduous footslogging involved in seeking out photogenic specimens. In the case of novelties like *Steganotaenia araliacea*, *Hymenodictyum parvifolium* and numerous others, it is more than likely that Pieter van Wyk's photographs are the first colour illustrations of these species ever published.

Clearly, the author has made a great effort to keep one step ahead of that apparently invincible monster—Nomenclatural Change. He has succeeded insofar as it is ever possible to be up to date with one's nomenclature and provides the reader with the most recent name changes as well as the latest taxonomic decisions for the Kruger Park tree flora. New records for the Kruger Park, too recent for inclusion in the format of the main text, are also listed. In addition to an index of scientific names with full author citations, there is an index of common names in English, Afrikaans and eight Bantu languages. Regrettably, the chapter headings of these two indexes have been transposed. Several other careless slips in major headings (*Glusiaceae* for *Clusiaceae*) are irksome but not serious. They could surely have been corrected by the publishers.

Many readers will, I am sure, be gratified to learn that the author has adopted a conservative approach as to what constitutes a tree. He has omitted a number of shrubby plants whose growth forms or stature have been either inflated or etiolated by some authorities in order to accord them tree status in the latest edition of the National List of Trees. His sane approach is to be greatly commended. (cf. the note under Myrsinaceae).

It must be stressed that these two volumes are not field guides, to be toted along when motoring through the Kruger Park. Notwithstanding their durable bindings, they are books for the library to be consulted and enjoyed at leisure. Each volume is priced at R17,50. The reader can be assured that by present day standards, this represents a bargain, not easily equalled.

J. P. ROURKE.

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